

The West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health

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Keywords: marine biotoxins, pathogens, sentinel species, contaminants, human health

Oceans and humans are inextricably linked: our activities on land, sea, and air impact the health of the oceans and the health of the oceans impacts us. In 2004, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) created an oceans and human health initiative to better understand and predict ocean-related impacts to human health. This initiative consists of a suite of programs and includes the designation of three research centers. The West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health is based at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA and builds off of current expertise and studies along the West Coast to fill critical information needs. West Coast Center scientists are investigating the impacts of pathogens, marine biotoxins, and toxic chemicals on both seafood and sentinel species. This research will help improve understanding and prediction of human health impacts from the oceans and assist resource and human health managers in making sound decisions. Research partners include the University of Washington, the University of California at Davis, The Marine Mammal Center, Oregon State University, the Institute for Systems Biology, and NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center.